



1 and shall maintain the copy of those minutes on the website for at least three months  
2 after the posting.

3 **(3)(a)** If the public body is required to publish its minutes in an official  
4 journal, the public body shall post its minutes on its website as required by this  
5 Paragraph within ten days after publication in the official journal. If the public body  
6 is not required to publish its minutes in an official journal, the public body shall post  
7 its minutes on its website as required by this Paragraph within a reasonable time after  
8 the meeting.

9 **(b) As provided in R.S. 43:143, the Vermilion Parish Police Jury may**  
10 **choose to publish the written minutes of its open meetings on its website instead**  
11 **of in the official journal. If the police jury chooses to do so, publication shall be**  
12 **within twenty days from the date of the meeting, and at the meeting, the police**  
13 **jury shall identify the parish official who shall be responsible for preparing and**  
14 **recording the minutes and for publishing the minutes.**

15 **(4)** The inability of the public to access the public body's website due to any  
16 type of technological failure shall not be a violation of the provisions of this Chapter.

17 Section 2. R.S. 43:143 and 144 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
18 follows:

19 §143. Newspaper selected to be known as official journal; duties; **exception**

20 **A.** The newspaper selected shall be known as the official journal of the  
21 parish, town, city or school board, and it shall publish all minutes, ordinances,  
22 resolutions, budgets and other official proceedings of the police jury, town or city  
23 councils, or the school board.

24 **B. Notwithstanding Subsection A of this Section, the Vermilion Parish**  
25 **Police Jury may choose to publish the minutes of its open meetings on its**  
26 **website instead of in the official journal. If the police jury chooses to do so, it**  
27 **shall publish the minutes within twenty days from the date of the meeting, and**  
28 **at the meeting, the police jury shall identify the parish official responsible for**  
29 **preparing and recording the minutes and for publishing the minutes.**

1 §144. Penalty for failure to have proceedings published

2 A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this Section, the The official of  
3 any municipal corporation, police jury, or school board by law responsible for the  
4 preparing and recording of the official proceedings who, within twenty days from the  
5 date of any meeting at which the official proceedings were had, wilfully neglects or  
6 fails to furnish the official journal with a copy of the minutes, ordinances,  
7 resolutions, budgets, and proceedings for publication, shall be fined not less than  
8 twenty-five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for not less  
9 than ten days nor more than six months, or both.

10 B.(1) If the governing authority of Vermilion Parish chooses to publish  
11 the minutes of its open meetings on its website instead of in the official journal,  
12 the minutes shall be published within twenty days from the date of the meeting.

13 (2)(a) If the parish official identified by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury  
14 as responsible for preparing and recording the minutes willfully neglects or fails  
15 to prepare and record the minutes within fifteen days from the date of the  
16 meeting, he shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five  
17 hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for not less than ten days nor more than six  
18 months, or both.

19 (b) If the parish official identified by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury  
20 as responsible for publishing the minutes on the website willfully neglects or  
21 fails to publish the minutes within five days from the date the minutes are  
22 recorded, he shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five  
23 hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for not less than ten days nor more than six  
24 months, or both.

25 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
26 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
27 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
28 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
29 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michael Bell.

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## DIGEST

SB 173 Original

2018 Regular Session

Perry

Present law requires police juries to select a newspaper as the official journal for their respective parish. Provides eligibility requirements for the newspaper and requires that the newspaper selected publish all minutes, ordinances, resolutions, budgets, and other official proceedings of the police jury.

Proposed law authorizes the Vermilion Parish Police Jury to publish the minutes of its open meetings on its website instead of its official journal. Requires that if the police jury chooses to publish its minutes on its website that the police jury shall identify the parish official responsible for preparing and recording the minutes and for publishing the minutes.

Present law provides that the official of any police jury responsible for the preparing and recording of the official proceeding who, within 20 days from the date of any meeting, willfully neglects or fails to furnish the official journal with a copy of the minutes, ordinances, resolutions, budgets, and proceeding for publication, shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$500, or be imprisoned for not less than 10 days nor more than six months, or both.

Proposed law creates an exception for the minutes of open meetings of the Vermilion Parish Police Jury. Provides that if the Vermilion Parish Police Jury chooses to publish the minutes of its open meetings on its website instead of its official journal, it shall be published within reasonable time but not more than 20 days from the date of the meeting. Provides that if the parish official identified as responsible for preparing and recording the minutes willfully neglects or fails to prepare and record the minutes within 15 days from the date of the meeting, he shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$500, or be imprisoned for not less than 10 days nor more than six months, or both. Provides that if the parish official identified as responsible for publishing the minutes willfully neglects or fails to publish the minutes within five days from the date the minutes are recorded, he shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$500, or be imprisoned for not less than 10 days nor more than six months, or both.

Present law requires all police juries to keep written minutes of all their open meetings. Provides required contents of the minutes. Provides that the minutes shall be public records (with certain exceptions) and shall be available within a reasonable time after the meeting.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if the police jury has a website, it shall post on its website a copy of the minutes within ten days after publication in the official journal and shall maintain the copy of the minutes on the website for at least three months after posting.

Proposed law provides an exception for the Vermilion Parish Police Jury. Provides that if the Vermilion Parish Police Jury chooses to publish the minutes of its open meetings on its website instead of the official journal, the police jury shall publish the minutes within 20 days from the date of the meeting and at the meeting, the police jury shall identify the parish official who shall be responsible for preparing and recording the minutes and for publishing the minutes.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 42:20 (B) and R.S. 43:143 and 144)